

Serial No. 09/913,708

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REMARKS

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35 USC 102

Claim 12 now includes in the first paragraph a more detailed definition of the data stream, and additionally, includes the control device. This claim is supported by original filed claims 12 and originally filed claim 13.

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The independent method claims have been amended similar to the apparatus claims.

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USPN 5,852,469 ('469), cited by the Examiner as anticipating the claimed invention, is related to coding and decoding systems for code words having variable lengths and code words having fixed lengths.

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For code words having variable lengths, the data stream is provided with synchronization points having a distance, which is secret to the lengths of the code words having a fixed length. The code words are then introduced into the data stream that all start at a synchronization point.

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For code words having variable lengths, a data stream having a start point and an end point, but not having synchronization points is provided to write code words having variable lengths starting at the beginning of the data stream until a certain point down stream of the middle of the data stream in forward direction.

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Furthermore, code words having variable lengths are introduced into the bit stream starting at the end of the data stream until a predetermined point in the middle.

Thus, the '469 patent teaches not to use raster points for code words having variable lengths.

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Furthermore, the '469 patent does not disclose to provide a multitude of raster points and to "double-use" each raster point by writing code words starting from one raster point in the forward direction and also starting at the same raster point
5 in the backward direction.

Furthermore, the '469 is completely silent for a situation in which a code word does not fit into a raster. However, a situation that a code word does not fit into a raster can naturally occur for code words having variable lengths because the
10 length of a code word is not fixed.

Contrary thereto, Claim 12 teaches what is to be done when a code word does not fit into the raster because the control device specifically states what has to be done when at least one code word of the second set is not present or not
15 complete.

In accordance with the invention, one jumps at least to one further segment in accordance with the predetermined rule to obtain the at least one code word of the second set completely or apart of the at least one code word.
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To summarize, the main features are that the '469 teaches not to place code words having variable lengths into a raster bit stream but only to place code words having a fixed length into a raster bit stream.

25 Furthermore, the '469 patent does not disclose to "double-use" a raster point to increase the error protection functionality of the bit stream by a factor of 2.

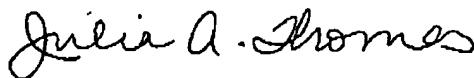
Finally, the '469 patent is silent on how an encoding and a decoding operation is to be done when a code word does not fit into the raster.
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Should the Examiner find it helpful, he is encouraged to contact Applicant's attorney at (650) 474-8400.

Respectfully submitted,

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